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Page Denied

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Reaction to Tibetan Situation

Afro-Asian reaction to events in Tibet continues to be strongly opposed to Communist China. Statements by the press and by important personages concentrate on Peiping's ruthless suppression of the Tibetan people, on China's new form of imperialism, and on its attack on the Buddhist religion.

Indian public opinion is still running well ahead of the government in condemning Chinese actions. In Indonesia, the next largest neutralist country, the press is concerned with the fact of "Asians kicking Asians around" and feels that Peiping may lose most of its friends. In Buddhist Ceylon, where comment has been sparse, former Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake said on 3 April that two lessons were to be learned from Tibet--the danger of a new imperialism and the recognition of how the Communist world treats religion. The first editorial reaction in Egypt says that the Tibetan revolt is against subordination and imperialism in a new form. (As far away as Tunisia, official reaction is that the Tibetan affair is "shocking" and recalls events in Hungary.)

Among those Asian nations which have ties with the West, Taiwan has reacted most strongly. It is attempting to create the impression that it is aiding the Tibetan rebels, and has suggested taking the issue to the United Nations. The South Korean foreign minister has extended his sympathy to the Tibetans in their fight against Communist tyranny. Manila continues to deplore the savage methods used by the Chinese in suppressing the Tibetan revolt.

Throughout the Asian world there is speculation regarding the future of Sino-Indian relations and the extent to which

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Peiping has destroyed impressions it had attempted to create by giving widespread publicity to the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

The Yugoslav press says the Tibetan revolt indicates serious "deficiencies" in the policies of Chinese leaders. Belgrade feels that the uprising has dealt a "heavy blow" to China and to the struggle for socialism. Peiping, in turn, has accused Yugoslavia of "distortion" and referring to Tibet as a separate "country." (CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN)

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Page Denied

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